

Aviation Tactics, Techniques, Information and Procedures Snapshot (AvTTIPS) Program

What is it?

AvTTIPS is a document published by Tactics Division, Directorate of Training and Doctrine (DOTD) at the United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence (USAACE). It is an official publication intended to:

- Disseminate time-critical information
- Quickly field vetted Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTP)
- Bridge the gap between current manuals and battlefield requirements due to evolving threats or newly fielded equipment
- Fill the void between existing doctrinal manuals and unit Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- Serve as a source for both the field and the schoolhouse.

Information published in the AvTTIPS is descriptive, rather than prescriptive, and has been analyzed by Subject Matter Experts (SMEs), vetted and staffed.

What has Army Aviation done?

Existing doctrinal manuals govern the processes of military action as a whole, address topics on a basic level and apply to a broad audience. They change periodically to reflect operational changes but require a lengthy development process. Soldiers and leaders must wait until the entire publishing process is complete prior to implementing a new manual. Furthermore, doctrinal manuals are unclassified, and are a starting point rather than a graduate-level repository.

On a finer level, the Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL) collects, analyzes, and disseminates “lessons learned” data from a variety of current and historical sources. This information supplements doctrine and provides techniques that allow Soldiers to execute doctrine without repeating previous errors. However, CALL functions on an Army-wide level and the vast amount of material is overwhelming for finding a detailed piece of specific information.

Further refining for a specific audience, USAACE DOTD has been publishing the Tactics Division Newsletter (TDNL) since early 2006. The TDNL addresses multiple aviation topics per bi-monthly issue but is unclassified and cannot discuss emerging TTP due to the requirements of ALARACT 032/2004 message (<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/550282>) that classifies emerging TTP.

Up to this point Army Aviation has not yet had an active method of disseminating time-sensitive tactics, techniques and procedures (TTP) directly to the Warfighter. Like the TDNL, DOTD both posts the AvTTIPS on the Web (passive) and pushes it via e-mail (active) to subscribers. Writers handle topics at a “graduate level,” subject matter expert (SME) depth, and address it from a “why it’s important” viewpoint explaining how it works and how to use it. The most important facet of the AvTTIPS is the capability of “going secure,” giving residence to official, classified information that the Warfighter needs, but until now has had difficulty finding. Finally, the amount of material in the AvTTIPS is relatively small when compared to a full-sized manual, which reduces its publishing process, and gets specific and vital information to the field quickly.

What continued efforts does Army Aviation have planned for the future?

The AvTTIPS is a critical first step in getting this specific, targeted, and often classified information to the Warfighter quickly and actively through managed subscriptions. DOTD will continue to work with appropriate agencies to enhance the subscription profile efficiency and ensure AvTTIPS delivery to its subscribers. AvTTIPS subjects will remain tactical in nature and focus on employment topics such as fundamentals, survivability, lethality, equipment theory of operation and TTPs. In order to maintain credibility DOTD will ensure that writers derive this information from multiple sources, subject it to official vetting by subject matter experts and staff it as required. To function as intended, the AvTTIPS is just one step in the entire TTP development cycle. Beginning on the battlefield, a unit discovers a gap between Army doctrine and mission requirements. The unit devises a method to accomplish the mission, forwards TTP to USAACE for SMEs to analyze, and the AvTTIPS quickly (and usually temporarily) disseminates the vetted TTP. When DOTD Doctrine Branch publishes the TTP in a revised doctrinal manual, DOTD will rescind the respective AvTTIPS issue, thus closing the TTP development cycle. Information that is not suitable for formal manuals will remain in AvTTIPS archives.

Why is this important to the Army and Army Aviation?

Closing our information gaps prevents the costly trial and error of “reinventing the wheel” as well as preserves those lessons for future Warfighters. It is widely accepted, quoting George Santayana (1863-1952) that, “Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it.”

As of: 22 Mar 2010